

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The level of gene knockdown or inhibition of gene transcription can be measured by analysis of mRNA from total RNA samples. Total RNA can be prepared between about 24 and 72 hrs after delivery siRNA using methods known to those skilled in the art. Preferably total cellular RNA is isolated from tissue or cell samples using the RNeasy<sup>TM</sup> kit and Rnase-Free DNase Set Protocol from Qiagen (Valencia, CA) according to the manufacturer's description. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The level of IL-6 and IL-8 have been shown to be elevated in autoimmune and inflammatory disease conditions Ishihara K et al. *Cytokine Growth Factor Rev* (2002),13:357-68; Mukaida N, *Int J Hematol* (2000),72:391-8]. Monoclonal antibody of IL-6 has been used for treatment for systemic lupus erythematosus. A fully human anti-IL8 monoclonal antibody (ABX-IL8) has also been applied to patients with chronic bronchitis and COPD. Therefore, the treatment of inflammatory disease by inhibitors IL-6-IL-8 activity is demonstrated as a method for testing representative autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. --